GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:511
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
CRUDE OIL PRICES
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to further reduce the prices of petroleum products, as the crude oil prices are showing a downward trend in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the crude oil price during the last six months, month-wise;

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the financial position of the oil marketing companies during the last financial year?

Answer

Minister of petroleum and natural gas (Shri murli deora)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.511 by Shri Tathagata Satpathy to be answered on 10th May, 2007 regarding crude oil prices.

(a)to(c): No, Sir. The prices in the international market have started firming up once again and have generally increased since November 2006 as may be seen in Annexure. Currently, the price of Indian Basket of crude is around $65 per barrel.

In view of the softening of global oil prices post Aug'06, when Indian Basket reached a peak price of $ 75 and to control inflation, the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced on 30.11.2006 and again on 16.2.2007. The reduction was Rs. 2/- per litre and Re. 1/- per litre for petrol and diesel respectively on each occasion (Delhi price).

The price of PDS Kerosene has not been revised since March 2002 and the price of Domestic LPG was last revised in November 2004.

(d): The details of latest available profit after tax of PSU Oil Marketing Companies namely IOC, HPC, BPC and IBP for the financial year 2006-07 (Apr'- Dec'06) are given below:

(Rs. crore)

Profit After Tax for Oil Companies	PSU 2006-07 (Apr-Dec`06) (Unaudited)
IOC	5889.80
HPC	1021.63
BPC	1135.50
IBP	106.98

Includes profit on sale of ONGC shares of Rs. 3225 crores.